

Spring 2016

## Profile: We Are Morris

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# Profile

Volume XX  
Edition II  
Winter/Spring 2016

For Alumni, Parents, and Friends of the University of Minnesota, Morris

new this issue  
**Alumni  
Spotlight**

TO GIVE  
AND TO  
RECEIVE

SCHOLARSHIP  
DONORS AND  
RECIPIENTS

A FOND  
FAREWELL TO  
CHANCELLOR  
JACQUELINE R.  
JOHNSON

# We Are Morris



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Profile  
Winter/Spring 2016  
Volume XX, Edition II

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Students, faculty, staff, and community members participated in the annual Martin Luther King Junior Day of Service in January. Volunteers helped at a variety of projects around Morris; marched through downtown; and came together for a meal, keynote presentation, and reflection at the end of the day.



#### University of Minnesota, Morris Mission

The University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) provides a rigorous undergraduate liberal arts education, preparing its students to be global citizens who value and pursue intellectual growth, civic engagement, intercultural competence, and environmental stewardship. As a public land grant institution, UMM is a center for education, culture, and research for the region, nation, and world. UMM is committed to outstanding teaching, dynamic learning, innovative faculty and student scholarship and creative activity, and public outreach. Our residential academic setting fosters collaboration, diversity, and a deep sense of community.

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

On the cover: Laura Borkenhagen '16, Truman, poses on the stairs in the Science building. Read more about Laura and others who embody the spirit of Morris in our cover story, beginning on page 12.



## A Message from Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson

In August at the opening convocation for faculty and staff, I announced that this would be my last year as chancellor at the University of Minnesota, Morris. It would be, I said, my “year of lasts,” and what a year it has been. My last move-in day; last Homecoming game (and we WON!); last alumni gathering in...Minneapolis, Boston, Phoenix; last Regents meeting; last commencement. My last *Profile* column.

This year marks my tenth as chancellor, and it's the perfect time, I think, for the campus to experience new leadership. We are well positioned for the present and the future. Enrollment remains strong, and our student profile represents the diversity and talent that is part of our heritage. The quality of our faculty and staff is outstanding. Residence halls are full to overflowing. Alumni are both satisfied with the educations they received here and loyal to their alma mater.

We have grown our capacity to support students through scholarships and other kinds of generous gifts, including land. We have made significant progress in our facilities: a new LEED gold residence hall, the first new “dorm” since 1971; several historically significant buildings (Imholte Hall and the Welcome Center, also LEED gold) renovated to 21st century standards; a second wind turbine; a biomass plant; solar panels. The campus has never looked more beautiful, and through the imagination and dedication of our grounds crew and students, it now is adorned with gardens and plantings and even a cold weather compost pile!

We have established ourselves as a leader and a model sustainable community in the University of Minnesota system, in the state of Minnesota, and in the country. We are a nationally ranked, award-winning public liberal arts college, and we are shameless in our promotion of this success. I am so proud of the work we have accomplished together and so honored to have had the opportunity to serve as chancellor at this school the Regents of the University of Minnesota call the “jewel in the crown” of the university system. It truly has been a joy and a privilege to build on the strong foundation established by those who have come before.

I will miss this place, and most of all I will miss each of you—your candor, your outspokenness, your insistence on consultation and collaboration, your profound desire to shape the communities in which you live, and your belief in this campus's mission.

The search for a new chancellor is well underway, with an expected start date of July 1, 2016. We have accomplished a lot together in the past 10 years, but there is still more to do. I trust you will show the next leader the same kindness, friendship, respect, and support you have shown me as Morris continues to fulfill its purpose as a most distinctive place in the higher education landscape.







Chancellor Johnson marks the Welcome Center's LEED Gold certification with Kathleen O'Brien, University of Minnesota vice president emeritus for university services.

## A Fond Farewell to Chancellor Johnson



Chancellor Johnson celebrates Commencement 2013 with University of Minnesota Regent Thomas Devine and United States Senator Al Franken.



Chancellor Johnson attends a Morris community meal.

After 10 years of service, Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson will retire from campus administration at the end of the academic year. By enabling Morris to increase its capacity to support students, to add and renovate facilities, and to establish itself in the higher education community as a national leader dedicated to sustainability, Chancellor Johnson has played a key role in shaping who—and what—we are today.

### A Host of Accomplishments

During Chancellor Johnson's tenure, the Morris campus...

- Became stronger and more deliberate in its mission
- Improved visibility throughout the state and nation
- Increased collaborations with the west central region
- Experienced enrollment growth
- Increased capacity to support students through donor-funded scholarships and other philanthropic gifts
- Invested \$32.6 million in improvements to campus facilities
- Established itself as a leader and a model sustainable community in the University of Minnesota system, in the state of Minnesota, and in the country
- Retained its place among the nation's top-ranked, award-winning public liberal arts colleges

# A Brief History

## August 2006

Chancellor Johnson becomes Morris's fifth, and first female, chancellor.

## June 2007

Chancellor Johnson joins more than 250 college and university presidents in adopting the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) and committing to reduce global warming emissions. She also becomes a founding member of the President's Climate Commitment Steering Committee on which she still serves (and will co-chair a group that is exploring transitions in presidential leadership).

## April 2008

Chancellor Johnson is one of three university leaders nationwide to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## October 2008

A new biomass facility is publicly dedicated.



## January 2010

Renovation of the Welcome Center to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards is completed.

## September 2011

Morris campus dedicates its second wind turbine.

## November 2011

Chancellor Johnson joins University of Minnesota President Eric W. Kaler and the system campus chancellors in highlighting the importance of preserving student aid.

## August 2012

Morris begins on-site composting and establishes a cold-weather compost pile.

Chancellor Johnson travels to Colorado to testify at a field hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Hearing in support of the "Native American Indian Education Act of 2012."



## August 2013

The Green Prairie Community, a new LEED Gold-certified residence hall, opens its doors.

## January 2014

Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson is elected chair of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Board of Directors.

## October 2014

Chancellor Johnson joins Vice Chancellor Emeritus for Finance and Facilities Lowell Rasmussen and Sustainability Director Troy Goodnough in accepting Morris's 2014 Second Nature Climate Leadership Award.

## 2015–16

Morris receives two of its largest philanthropic gifts to date and sets an all-time record for giving this fiscal year.

## What's Next for Morris?

A search is underway for Morris's next chancellor, who will take office this summer.



"I will miss this place, and most of all I will miss the campus community—its candor, its outspokenness, its insistence on consultation and collaboration, its belief in this campus's mission, and the passion it exhibits in fulfilling it."

—Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson announcing her retirement, August 2015



Each fall Chancellor Johnson welcomes new students as a member of the campus move-in crew.



# TO GIVE AND TO RECEIVE

Private support for Morris—in all of its forms—allows our donors and friends to join hands with talented young people, securing a brighter future for us all. The campus's philanthropic tradition is rife with generous givers and deserving receivers; theirs are the faces of philanthropy, and these are just a few of their stories.

## Giving to Morris

In partnership with the University of Minnesota Foundation, gifts designated to Morris are received by and invested in the Morris campus. The Foundation serves as the legal, charitable entity for the University system.

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Kyelee Wilson '19

### Rodriguez Resiliency Scholarship

As an expert on educational equity, Michael Rodriguez '89 is committed to closing the state's achievement gap. By establishing this scholarship, which is awarded to first-year students who demonstrate resiliency, perseverance, and diverse backgrounds, he has taken this work one step further.

"The Resiliency Scholarship is a small contribution to improve educational equity and to highlight the importance of non-academic factors for success in school and careers," he says. "My own personal story is a case-study of resiliency, opportunity, and success, so I am happy to be able to pass it on and continue to widen the pipeline for greater access to Morris, a place where diverse knowledge, skills, and abilities are recognized and valued."

First-year student Kyelee Wilson '19, Geddes, South Dakota, is the first recipient of the scholarship; as such, she knows just how encouraging support for educational access can be. This encouragement fuels her enthusiasm for what remains of her undergraduate years.

"The Resiliency Scholarship means a lot to me," she says. "It was a total gift that made me feel cared about and want to push forward in my academic career."

### Phi Mu Delta Student Development Scholarship

In honor of their "Three S Philosophy" of service, scholarship, and social contributions, brothers of the Phi Mu Delta fraternity have established a student development fund. The fund will support high-achieving students who want to enhance their academic careers through experiential learning opportunities like study abroad, internships, global studies, undergraduate research, and service learning.

"I think that while this may not be the largest contribution UMM receives this year, it clearly shows what a group of dedicated alumni can accomplish," says Pat Gannon '70. "I hope it inspires others to develop their own initiatives."

Inaugural recipient Katherine Johnson '16, Mora, is leveraging the fraternity's generosity to take part in an extraordinary learning experience in Potsdam, Germany. The graduate-school hopeful is grateful for the opportunity, which might just be the next step in her journey toward a master of education.

"Not only does it mean a lot to have some financial support that I'm sure almost every student would enjoy, but it also means a lot to be recognized for my accomplishments and the work gone into studying abroad."



Katherine Johnson '16 in Potsdam, Germany



## What We Share: Scholarship Jubilee 2015



Students, donors, family members, and friends came together on a beautiful day in September to celebrate gifts shared with our deserving and talented students. The event gave everyone the chance to celebrate awardees and the generous individuals who make their scholarships possible. Thank you for all that you've shared with our students!



Erik Torgerson, Rima Torgerson, Joan Torgerson, Hans Torgerson, Jay Paulson, Anders Torgerson, Sonya Paulson, and Les Torgerson celebrate the dedication.

## EcoStation Dedication

In September friends gathered to celebrate Morris's new outdoor learning venue.



Numerous downy gentians (*Gentiana puberulenta*) bloomed on the day of the dedication, to the delight of attendees.



# Thank you!

IT ALL ADDS UP

All of your gifts impact  
Morris students.

Thank you for choosing  
to be part of their  
Morris experiences.



# DIVISION UPDATES

## Education

- The Division of Education and the Education Minnesota Student Program cosponsored “Why Teach? Conversations with Teachers,” allowing more than 65 students to hear what it is like to have a career in education from four area teachers.
- Professor of Education and Division of Education Chair Gwen Rudney was elected Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education President.
- Assistant Professor of Education Wendy Emo received a Morris Campus Student Association Tech Fee award to purchase iPad minis to help education students model best practice for use in instruction with K–12 students.

## Humanities

- David Tse-Chien Pan, professor of German at the University of California, Irvine, delivered the 2015 Barber Lecture, “Goethe’s Wilhelm Meister and Political Representation.”
- Assistant Professor of English Chrissy Kolaya’s *Charmed Particles* was released by Dzanc Books.
- Former Associate Professor of Studio Art Michael Eble and 14 first-year students completed one of the campus’s largest service-learning projects to-date: a mural for Pomme de Terre Foods.
- Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts Craig Moxon and Theatre and Events Coordinator Carrie Hurst executed an LED lighting upgrade using the Morris Green Reinvestment Fund.

## Science and Mathematics

- The University of Minnesota, Morris Howard Hughes Medical Institute Pathways to Science Program hosted its first Changes in Nature workshop in which pre-college teachers from across Minnesota gathered to improve science curriculum.
- Rachel Johnson, Athena Kildegaard, and Chrissy Kolaya connected with the community through Café Scientifique, an outreach program in which researchers discuss their work in a non-academic setting.
- The division welcomed Daniel Enderton ’02 as the 2015 Latterell Visiting Alumnus.
- Assistant Professor of Biology Michael Ceballos joined the United States Delegation to the US-Vietnam Science and Technology Joint Committee Meeting in Ho Chi Minh City.

## Social Science

- Associate Professor of Political Science Sheri Breen attended the Sixth Governing Body Session of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- Professor of Economics and Management Arne Kildegaard attended the 21st Conference of the Parties, hosted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Teaching Specialist Chris Butler co-edited *Climate Insecurity and Conflict in South Asia: Climate Stress as a Catalyst for Social Conflict and Environmental Insecurity*.



## Morris Hires First Senior Administrative Director of Institutional Effectiveness

This fall Morris appointed its first senior administrative director of institutional effectiveness, Melissa R. Bert. Bert is working with senior-level administrators and others to

provide information and analysis that supports administrative decision making, strategic planning, assessment and program review, accreditation, and data relevant to federal and other grant applications. Her work will build on Morris's already strong tradition of institutional effectiveness.

## Morris Awarded U.S. Department of Education TRiO Student Support Services Grant

Morris was awarded a \$1.1 million TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The SSS grant will support 140 low-income students, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities, with special focus on students from rural backgrounds, American Indian students, and students of color: populations facing the greatest barriers to retention and graduation at Morris and throughout Minnesota.



## Morris Awarded Career Ready Internship Grant from Great Lakes

Morris has been awarded a \$360,830 Career Ready Internship Grant from Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation. The grant will enable Morris to create 190 new campus-affiliated paid internship opportunities throughout the surrounding community and will strengthen existing campus career-services resources.



## Morris Awarded ED Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions Program Grant

Morris was awarded a \$1,997,003 Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions Program grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant will fully finance the Morris Native American Student Success Project, the goal of which is to increase the educational attainment of American Indian students by eliminating college achievement gaps.

For the latest campus news, visit [news.morris.umn.edu](http://news.morris.umn.edu)



## Campus Accolades

*Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education*

STARS Gold and 2015 Sustainable Campus Index

*Best Colleges Online*

50 Most Technologically Advanced Small Colleges 2015

*Best Value Schools*

#5 Best Value College in Minnesota

*Buildings, Benchmarks, and Beyond (B3) Awards*

*College Factual*

10 Best Colleges for the Money

*Fiske Guide to Colleges*

*Forbes America's Top Colleges*

*Kiplinger's Personal Finance*

100 Best Values in Public Colleges

*Midwestern Higher Education Compact*

Most Effective & Efficient Public Four-Year Institution in Minnesota

*Military Friendly Schools*

*Sierra Magazine*

Top-40 "Cool Schools"

*U.S. News and World Report*

Top Public Liberal Arts Colleges

*Washington Monthly*

Midwest's "Best Bang for the Buck" Schools

*Winds of Change*

Top 200 Colleges for American Indian Students





# CONSERVATION YOU CAN TASTE

As Katherine Duram '18, Cambridge, has learned through her work with the Morris Area Farmer's Market, issues surrounding food and diversity affect us all. Duram sat down with Gary Paul Nabhan—an internationally celebrated nature writer, food and farming activist, and Morris's 2015 Distinguished Visiting Professor for the Liberal Arts—to discuss such matters.

## How has the world of food changed in the last few years?

The best news is that there are so many people more engaged in a positive way with food and in learning where it comes from that the issue of us being isolated from our food system has really declined. And there are very different ways in which people are looking at food today. Some people are saying [food] is one of the greatest ways in which people can connect through their senses with the abundance and deliciousness of the world. It's very hedonistic, but in ways those people have forced a paradigm shift on conservation because they're saying conservation isn't something



in our heads: it's something we can benefit from and participate in through all of our senses and our memories and our emotions and our spiritual tendencies as well as our intellect. Also, far more people are working on the social and environmental justice issues relating to our food system. Eighty-five percent of the people who bring us our daily bread are Mexican-Americans and other minorities, and I think there's increased recognition that they're also some of the people most disadvantaged by the industrial food system. So, it's a pivotal moment in American history, and food is not just the content of that debate and discussion, but also a metaphor for what really nourishes us in this country.



### In what ways has industrialized agriculture reduced the biodiversity of food?

As there has been an effort to capture national or even international markets, industrial food systems have tended to favor highly subsidized food-crop varieties that are highly storable and growable from coast to coast. And so we have eight apples dominating the market in chain grocery stores, whereas we have 16,000 apples that have been grown in North America over the last century, and 3,500 of them are still out in small farmers' orchards. Now, to me it's really the question of whether people think that there's one kind of beer or one kind of beef that should be sold to everyone in the country, or whether we want a diversity of taste and textures and nutritional values in our diet. I'll go for the diversity, because different people have different preferences, and they also have different nutritional requirements, so we need things that fit the diversity of people in North America. And the actual definition of food security that I don't think industrial agriculture has ever gotten is "affordable access to culturally appropriate foods." What may be culturally appropriate to each of the many cultures in Minnesota may be different here, and the same is true when we move between states. There's just not a one-size-fits-all diet or food preference. We really need to do better at having a food system that honors the diversity of nutritional needs and cultural needs of our people.

### In what ways has your work engaged communities?

I have the pleasure as a writer and a researcher to have the time and blessing of pulling into urban and rural communities to ask them about their food problems, then I assist in trying to help them solve them. I also work with farmers interested in growing little-known seeds and livestock breeds that may have unique roles to play in whole-systems agriculture, so I'm often playing a role in the first wave of bringing together chefs and livestock producers and farmers and orchardists to get those things out into the market so they're not just museum pieces, but they're improving the range of livelihoods available in the communities.

### What can we do to help improve the biodiversity of food?

Love it. Cherish it. Remind people that this is not just ideology, like a liberal-conservative issue, but it's something that can bring us all together.

The University of Minnesota, Morris Distinguished Visiting Professorship for the Liberal Arts was established through the generous support of a private donor.

## How To: Increase Food Diversity

In a keynote lecture Nabhan shared his insights on how to increase diversity in our diets. Here is his advice for how you can help preserve the nation's food varieties:



### 1. Become a Horticulture Expert.

Plant a garden that hosts several edible species—don't be afraid to curate herbs and spices for your own dinner table!



### 2. Support Local Food Events.

Visit local farmer's markets and sample ethnic meals. Ethnic variations and local traditions can create a host of delicious dishes!



### 3. Get Youth Involvement.

True conservation carries on over generations with children and grandchildren. Get the youth involved in eco-friendly agriculture, and encourage them to become connoisseurs of subtle flavors.

Logan Bender '17, Red Wing





In October alumni came back to campus for Morris's annual Homecoming celebration. From Cougar Athletics contests, reunions, and meet-and-greets to an all-alumni gathering and our biggest Networking Day yet, Homecoming 2015 was something to celebrate!







Enjoy more photos online,  
and join us next year for  
Morris Homecoming,  
October 7–8, 2016!  
[alumni.morris.umn.edu](http://alumni.morris.umn.edu)



# WE ARE MORRIS

## The Student Experience Then and Now



The student experience has changed a bit since Morris opened its doors in 1960, but in many ways it's remained much the same...



### **Paulette Fairbanks Molin, PhD '66**

Former Assistant Dean of the Graduate College at Hampton University/Independent Scholar

Activities: Attending on-campus concerts, lectures, films, and other events

Favorite Morris memory: My favorite Morris memories center on people I met...and part-time jobs, always welcome opportunities for a broke student.

How did you make the most of your Morris experience?

By hanging in there, giving UMM and its experiences time. As a first-generation college student and one of the few minorities, I arrived on campus with a heavy load of apprehension and fear. With time, some fears faded, but others persisted. UMM hadn't yet had a graduating class when I started, so, in retrospect, new beginnings and growing pains were the order of the day. Unchanging, though, is the fact that the campus was built on the same foundation as mine, Native presence.

How did your experience at Morris prepare you for life after college?

My experience prepared me to take risks, to get out of my comfort zone, and to question conventional wisdom about who does and who does not belong in certain settings. I was exposed to students and teachers from different backgrounds, grew in a small place with big ideas, forged ahead to other settings, and developed personal friendships, including some that are still ongoing.

## Mark Williamson, DDS '78

Semi-retired Dentist, Delta Dental Mobile Smiles

Activities: Varsity Football, Intramurals, Student Government, Commencement Speaker

Favorite Morris memory: Meeting and getting together with friends and teammates, the whole college experience

How did you make the most of your Morris experience?

Being involved in something—doesn't matter what activity or club it is—rounds out the whole experience. For me it was football. Football really emphasized the value of teamwork. In my dental practice, that was a point of emphasis: we all worked together as a team.

How did your experience at Morris prepare you for life after college?

In general, the liberal arts education at Morris makes us pretty adaptable. The world isn't static, and we can't be either. You can get a great education anywhere, but you have to be the one to pursue it. Morris definitely prepared me for dental school. Morris gave all of us as students a better opportunity to get a great education than most schools because of everything that was available to us, especially the faculty and staff. We were offered an education that was very close to a private school, but at a lower cost.



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## Maria Brun '08

Energy Industry Analyst, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Activities: Undergraduate Research, Activity Fee Review Committee, Chancellor's Committee, *University Register*, Intramural Volleyball, Asian Student Association, Piano

Favorite Morris memory: Sitting in a professor's or staff member's office or in the library at the reference desk

How did you make the most of your Morris experience?

Working as a research assistant exposed me to many opportunities and opened the door to working on a second project in environmental economics related to the biomass gasification plant. Long story short (and it's a very long one with a career change and many years of schooling in between), working on research projects put me on the path to graduate school and into my current career in energy.

How did your experience at Morris prepare you for life after college?

So many ways. The most obvious are the academic. The courses I took developed critical thinking skills, whether quantitatively from taking math, science, and economics, or otherwise from taking courses such as political thought. Less obvious was developing a greater appreciation for the fact that the world does not operate in black and white conditions, but somewhere in the gray.



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## Manjari Govada '12

Associate in the Alternative Solutions Group, BlackRock

Activities: Morris Campus Student Association (President 2011–12), Undergraduate Research/Truckers & Turnover, Stevens Community Humane Society, Dance Ensemble

Favorite Morris memory: Saturday morning breakfast at Don's surrounded by friends

How did you make the most of your Morris experience?

By building relationships with people across campus, I was able to participate in a wide range of activities that allowed me to become a more well-rounded person. These activities allowed me to discover my true passions and to tailor my experience to better prepare me for life after college.

How did your experience at Morris prepare you for life after college?

The rigorous classes and research experiences helped me hone the problem-solving skills I use every day at work. Additionally, knowing I have the support and guidance of my closest friends from Morris has allowed me to take on greater risks (and go on larger adventures). I believe Morris instilled a keen sense of understanding one's roots and the importance of leading with humility and respect, traits I hope to take with me wherever I go.





## Laura Borkenhagen '16, Truman

Activities: Research, Peer-Assisted Learning Tutors, Biology Club, Science Sensations, Big Friend Little Friend, Craft Club, Students for Life, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Track and Cross-Country (Co-Captain), Work Study

Favorite Morris memory: Cross-country taking All-Conference in 2014

How did you make the most of your Morris experience?

By saying “yes”! A lot of my involvement came from actively deciding that I was going to start saying “yes” instead of talking myself out of things that interested me but I was too afraid to pursue. It’s incredible how many doors something simple like that can open up!

How did your experience at Morris prepare you for life after college?

I think being at a school where I could get my feet wet in many different disciplines has really helped me explore different options for life after college. It’s also really nice to go to a school that is small but still has a lot to offer. Not many undergraduates can say they presented their research findings at a national conference or had the opportunity to interview a Nobel laureate. Morris has a lot of opportunities available to students that a lot of undergraduates may never be exposed to.



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## Ellery Wealot '16, Dodge Center

Activities: Morris Campus Student Association (President, 2015–16), Community ESL Classes, Jane Addams, Model UN, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Students Today Leaders Forever, Organic Gardening Club, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Office of Residential Life

Favorite Morris memory: Students Today Leaders Forever spring break trip to Denver, Colorado

How did you make the most of your Morris experience?

I almost never say no to anything! I jump on whatever opportunities come my way—community service, study abroad, classes that pique my interest, events involving free food, summer jobs, etc. I also try not to let stress from my classes consume my life.

How did your experience at Morris prepare you for life after college?

Besides the classes directly related to my financial management major, I’ve also taken courses in Spanish, psychology, sociology, computational data management, economics, and mathematics. This liberal arts education has helped me to develop a variety of skills and interests, and I’m hoping that after I graduate, this will demonstrate to potential employers that I am capable of learning and doing anything.





## **Kyle Petermeier '17, Browerville**

Activities: Football (Wide Receiver); Intramural Softball, Basketball, and Volleyball; Work Study; Elementary Education and Teacher Practicum; Jane Addams

Favorite Morris memory: The Cougs' big win at Homecoming 2015

How are you making the most of your Morris experience?

By using the resources that Morris has: we have an excellent education program that provides me and other students with great opportunities. The small class sizes make our teachers very accessible and help me get the most out of my learning. I also play football, and that helps my experience as well. I have made some great friends that will last a lifetime all because of a game, a school, and a campus.

How do you think your experience will prepare you for life after college?

School has helped me learn how to prioritize what is important and also helped me learn to manage my time. I am getting the opportunity in my classes to go out and experience what I will be doing every day for a job. I also got a great experience being a part of the football team, and the life lessons I learned in that will help me in my everyday life.



## **Michelle Richotte '16, Park Rapids**

Activities: Annual Juried Art Show and Studio Art Installations, Asian Student Association, Circle of Nations Indigenous Association, Voces Unidas (Vice President), World Touch Cultural Heritage Week Planning Committee, Jane Adams, Community ESL Classes, Gateway and STELLAR Programs Student Mentor, Research, Study Abroad

Favorite Morris memory: Gateway Program

How are you making the most of your Morris experience?

Morris has allowed for a great deal of personal expansion; the opportunities to participate in events, work with my professors, and study abroad gave me the experiences necessary to grow in my area of interest.

How do you think your experience will prepare you for life after college?

I can honestly say that I have great odds of going to graduate school. After Morris I hope to get into a master's program that will give me the necessary experience to use and expand on the tools I've gained here at Morris. I also wish to someday work with a Native American population. Coming to Morris to learn and share my culture has done a great deal for me academically, but also for spiritual healing. I hope to teach children and students in the Native population the skills I've learned at Morris so that I may share that healing with their communities.



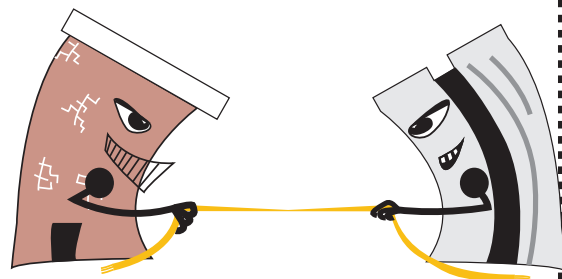
# THE IMPORTANCE OF B

The Morris experience is bigger than what we learn in the classroom. Even from co-curricular programming on campus to the many opportunities to

## RESIDENTIAL LIFE

**95%** OF STUDENTS LIVE ON OR WITHIN A MILE OF CAMPUS

WHAT'S ALLOWED IN A RES HALL NOW?



INDY WON THE 2015 TUG-O-WAR.

Average GPA for first-year students living on campus is .25 points higher than their counterparts living off campus ('04-'12).

WE'VE GONE HIGH-TECH  
RESIDENCE HALLS ARE NOW ACCESSED USING U-CARDS.

**36** STUDENTS IN COMMUNITY ADVISOR (CA) POSITIONS  
**7** STUDENT HALL DIRECTORS

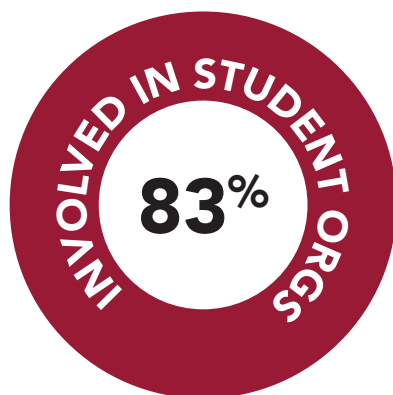
## STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

On-campus jobs allow students to gain experience and earn money while they go to school. Many students work off campus as well.

**900**  
STUDENT WORK CONTRACTS EACH YEAR

**STUDENT EMPLOYMENT BOOSTS RETENTION!**  
FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS WHO WORK ON CAMPUS ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO RETURN FOR A SECOND YEAR.

## CO-CURRICULARS



**100+**  
STUDENT ORGS

IS YOUR FAVORITE ORGANIZATION STILL GOING STRONG?

Check out the current list of orgs and see what they're up to at [umnmorris.collegiatelink.net](http://umnmorris.collegiatelink.net)

**1/2**  
HALF OF MORRIS STUDENTS PLAY INTRAMURAL SPORTS

**23**  
INTRAMURAL LEAGUES



# BEING MORRIS

...element of the campus—from residence halls and facilities to student activities and special events, ...get away—provides students a chance to build frameworks for successful futures!

## ACADEMICS



**57%**  
OF STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATE IN  
UNDERGRADUATE  
RESEARCH OR  
CREATIVE  
PRODUCTION

**#1**  
ACADEMIC  
EXCELLENCE  
RATED #1  
BY ALUMNI

**91**  
ACADEMIC  
ALL-CONFERENCE  
AWARDS THE COUGARS  
TOOK HOME IN THE  
2014–15 YEAR  
(REQUIRES A 3.5 GPA OR BETTER)

## GIVING BACK

**1 in 4**  
MORRIS STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATED IN  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
SERVICE IN 2014

**2,100**  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
DIRECTLY IMPACTED  
BY COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
PROJECTS

**15,430  
HOURS**  
OF SERVICE LOGGED  
BY STUDENTS IN  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
PROJECTS IN 2014–15

## ATHLETICS

**1 in 5**  
MORRIS STUDENTS  
IS A VARSITY ATHLETE

**NCAA DIVISION III**  
The Cougars compete in  
NCAA Division III as members  
of the Upper Midwest Athletic  
Conference (UMAC).

**93%**  
OF COUGAR ATHLETES  
REPORTED THAT  
PARTICIPATION IN THEIR  
SPORTS FOSTERED A  
LIFELONG APPRECIATION  
FOR HEALTH AND FITNESS

**14** ANNUAL  
UNDERGRADUATE  
RESEARCH  
SYMPOSIUMS  
HAVE SHOWCASED  
STUDENT WORK



**YES, PEOPLE DO STILL GO  
TO CLASS IN SLIPPERS. OR  
IN HEELS. OR WHATEVER  
THEY FEEL LIKE.**

**3.24**  
AVERAGE GPA FOR  
STUDENT LEADERS  
The average GPA for  
those not in leadership  
positions is 3.036.

**50%**  
STUDENTS WHO STUDY ABROAD

## OUTCOMES

**94%**  
OF RECENT GRADS ARE  
EITHER EMPLOYED OR  
PURSUING A HIGHER  
DEGREE WITHIN ONE  
YEAR OF GRADUATION

**47%**  
OF GRADUATES WILL ATTEND  
GRADUATE SCHOOL IN THEIR  
CAREERS. 25% ATTEND GRAD  
SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY AFTER  
MORRIS.

ON AVERAGE, MORRIS  
STUDENTS HAVE THE  
LOWEST DEBT LOAD  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MINNESOTA SYSTEM,  
AND 94% OF THEM SAY  
THEIR MORRIS DEGREES  
WERE SMART INVESTMENTS.

**303**  
STUDENT  
LEADERS

THE ANNUAL PERFORMING ARTS SERIES,  
PRIMARILY FUNDED THROUGH THE STUDENT  
ACTIVITY FEE, BRINGS FIVE ACTS TO CAMPUS  
EACH ACADEMIC YEAR. THIS YEAR WE'VE  
ENJOYED RHYTHMIC CIRCUS, HOME FREE,  
BLACKPACK, TEN STRINGS AND A GOAT SKIN,  
AND ARENA DANCES.

**92%**  
OF STUDENTS  
ATTEND ON-  
CAMPUS ARTS  
PERFORMANCES

**POWERFUL SPEAKERS  
WHOSE MESSAGES  
EXPAND HORIZONS  
IN JUST THE LAST YEAR,  
WE'VE HOSTED:**  
Bill Nye the Science Guy  
Peter Sagal  
Piper Kerman

**WHOM DID YOU HEAR  
ON CAMPUS?**  
Tell us about it at  
[Facebook.com/UMMorris](https://www.facebook.com/UMMorris)



Winter, spring, summer, or fall, campus wildlife brings a smile to any face. Do you have a squirrel (or other animal) story from your days at Morris? Let us know: [urel@morris.umn.edu](mailto:urel@morris.umn.edu).



Some of you already shared your favorite squirrel memories on Facebook:

My favorite squirrel memory would be back in the day when I would decorate campus for Homecoming; it would, affectionately, be called "feed the squirrels day!" They just LOVED those corn-on-the-cob days, and gorged themselves mightily!

—Margaret T. Larson '88

I went over to a friend's on-campus apartment, and a squirrel had gotten in their living room when they left the door open. I walked in as they were trying to get it out.

—Tiffany Riewe-Bradford '05

I witnessed two exchange students rescue a fat squirrel that got its head stuck in a tree. They pulled on its tail until it popped out and scurried away.

—Karl "Boo" Schliep '12

My friend and I cornered a squirrel on the steps behind Gay Tower II and were able to pet him.

—Olivia Klemek '15

[facebook.com/ummorris](https://facebook.com/ummorris)



## UMMAA Board of Directors

Greta Alms '04, immediate past president  
Gina Brunko-Marquez '94  
Jon Dalager '79  
Amy Doll-Wohlers '90, first vice president  
Donnay Green '05  
Beverly Maloney Harren '66  
Dillon McBrady '13  
Dan Moore '07, president  
Larry Traversie '00, second vice president  
Elizabeth Thoma '11  
Ryan Vettleson '98  
Susan Von Mosch '78

## Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving

Erin Schellin Christensen '05  
associate director of alumni relations  
and annual giving

Beverly Metzger  
principal office and administrative specialist

**alumni@morris.umn.edu**  
**320-589-6066**  
**alumni.morris.umn.edu**



**MORRIS  
CONNECT**

## Our students want to hear from you!

Connect online with current  
Morris students and alumni  
for mentoring, networking,  
and professional  
opportunities!

**alumni.morris.umn.edu/  
morris-network**

## Daniel Moore '07, President of the UMM Alumni Association



Morris is a family I cherish. As I meet our very first alumni now celebrating their 50th reunions, they become my Morris grandparents. When I encourage incoming students and their families competing for prestigious scholarships, they become my Morris cousins. And attending a theatre production, soccer game, senior banquet, or the annual Holiday Soirée, I meet incredible faculty, staff, and students who make it very easy for those of us alumni to say proudly, "We are Morris."

"I never thought I'd be back, but next year I'm bringing the family," I heard from an alumnus who, after 19 years away, returned to campus last fall for Networking Day, where he reconnected with the professor who set him on a meaningful career path, and he cheered on our Cougar football team to a Homecoming win.

Whether you come for Homecoming in the fall, Jazz Fest this spring, or just take a quick drive around the mall, past Don's and the Met, then down Atlantic Avenue en route to your summer vacation, I hope you'll visit this year and share the stories of your Morris family.

Share stories of the Morris people who changed how you think about yourself and your community, who showed you how to give back and to pay forward, who challenged you to look deeper and to think bigger, who trusted you and disagreed with you, and to whom you still look for wisdom and perspective. Let everyone know that you are Morris.

## UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

- April 8–9 Jazz Fest
- April 30 Womens Soccer 7v7 tournament
- May 14 53rd Commencement
- May 14 UMMAA Board Meeting
- May 19 Morris at the Saints Event, Saint Paul
- June 20–24 Alumni in the Archives
- July 15 Cougar Alumni Classic Golf Championship, Alexandria
- August 16 UMMAA Board Meeting, Twin Cities
- October 7–8 Homecoming 2016  
Class of 1966 50-Year Reunion  
Class of 1996 20-Year Reunion  
Class of 2001 15-Year Reunion

For the most current event information,  
visit [alumni.morris.umn.edu/opportunities-connect](http://alumni.morris.umn.edu/opportunities-connect).  
Events take place on campus unless otherwise noted.



## Alumni Spotlight

We asked alumni to tell us how their Morris experiences helped them get to where they are today.



Photo by Danter's Photography of Morris.

### **WARRENN ANDERSON '73**

Attorney, Fluegel, Anderson, McLaughlin & Brutlag, Chartered, P.A.

"I participated in student government, four years of college athletics, and any number of other organizations, all of which made me think I wanted to be actively involved in my living setting. That was the way Morris operated: they offered you opportunities to get involved and made you feel like you should give back and be involved in every aspect of what went on in your career and life. The professors encouraged you to become involved, they gave you extra time, they were good role models because they were all so committed to carrying out the mission of a liberal arts school, and that encouraged one to be involved. It gave you a real sense of belonging."

### **DAWN BENSON '77**

Third-grade teacher, KMS Public Schools

"On the obvious level my degree in elementary education from Morris made it possible for me to be hired as a teacher. On a deeper level Morris made it possible for me to stay in rural Minnesota, where my heart is, but be exposed to a much larger world. The classes I took, the people I met and lived with, the concerts with performers from many other places, and the theater department where I used abilities other than those related to education all combined to make me grow and see a bigger view than where I live. There's more to the world than just west central Minnesota; Morris showed me that and allows me to be content where I am."



Photo by Ted Almen for the *Kerkhoven Banner*.



### **SALVADOR MONTEAGUDO '99**

GED-ESL tutor, Alexandria ABE Consortium; job coach, Stevens County Developmental Achievement Center; consumer counselor, Prairie Community Services

"It all started my freshman year when we had to do some community project. This was just the beginning of many community projects I participated in as a college student. Just meeting people in the community outside of campus built a lot of relationships that were very helpful as a college student away from my family back at my other home in Saint Paul. Then I was involved with Morris Campus Student Association as a rep, and the year I joined we went over to the Capitol and lobbied for the Regional Fitness Center. This was probably the biggest community project. I feel very grateful to this day, as I'm an avid user and blessed to stay to see the results."





Archivist and Associate Professor of History Stephen Gross joined in the archives by Kay Keegan '14, Dennis Gimmestad '73, Tom Harren '67, Beverly Maloney Harren '66, Susan Von Mosch '78, Mary Klauda '77, Former Assistant Library Director Jayne Blodgett, and Library Director LeAnn Dean.

## Alumni Reconnect with Campus through Service

Logan Bender '17, Red Wing

Morris welcomed Susan Von Mosch '78, Mary Klauda '77, Dennis Gimmestad '73, Tom Harren '67, Beverly Maloney Harren '66, and Kay Keegan '14 this summer when they visited campus to volunteer their time in the archives. They accomplished important work in assessing, organizing, and describing the archival materials held in Rodney A. Briggs Library.

The archives are integral to research involving the history of the campus and surrounding area. In order to maintain their ease of access and use, the alumni worked on projects important to data organization and upkeep with the help of library staff.

"They were quite diligent," says Stephen Gross, archivist and associate professor of history. "They would get right to work as well as banter back and forth about what they were working with. It's great to get some visibility on the archives through this group project."

As part of their visit, alumni were able to aid the archives of an institution from which they are proud to have graduated, while also getting the chance to collaborate and reminisce. Through their service work, they have used their talents drawn from careers in history and aided future historical research.

"Overall, we are very positive about the experience and hope that our archive project will serve as a model to be improved and expanded upon," say Tom and Beverly Harren.



### GET INVOLVED!

Do you have ideas for how you and other alumni can serve the campus community?

Contact Erin Christensen, associate director of alumni relations, at [erinc@morris.umn.edu](mailto:erinc@morris.umn.edu) to learn more.

More than 75 alumni also returned to campus throughout February to help Morris identify its next generation of student leaders; they helped interview prospective students during Community of Scholars, Morris's annual competition for competitive scholarships.



# LOOK WHO'S BACK!



Irling Itzen '73, Myrna Stahman '67, June Mau Itzen, Marialis Itzen Jurges '67, Iloise Itzen Groth, Graham Groth



Terrence Chastan-Davis '15 and Matthew Cook '15



Daniel Enderton '02



Neil Mattson '01



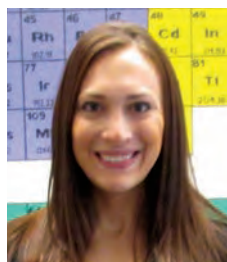
Mei-Ying and James Hoppie '77



Rob Metz '81



Rick McNelly '69



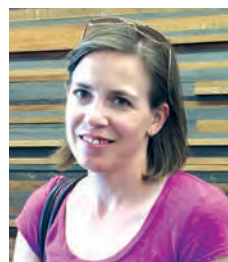
Jenna Benson '07



Maia Dalager '15



Tony Williamson '84



Tamara Tureson '91



Josh Smith, Jay Smith '95, Andrew Smith, and Becky Huseth Smith '95



Madison Greenwaldt, Ross Greenwaldt '83, and Brenda Hendrickson Greenwaldt '86



Sarah Jordahl, Rosalie E. Johnson '81, and Eric Jordahl



Sonja Smidt Rehmann '12 and Andrew Rehmann '11



Canaan and Stacey Smith '90



Taylor and Jana Schapekahn  
Piotter '90



Angela Seewald-Marquardt '97  
and students from NDSU  
Upward Bound





**Cougar Football Reunion**  
In July Cougars from 1983–86 enjoyed a casual get-together with coaches and friends.



Doug Tigner '85, Steve Schroeder '85, Kevin Henslin '84, Jay Johnson '85, and Scott Hesse '83

### Cougar Alumni Classic Golf Championship

In July Athletics alumni, coaches, and friends hit the green for this inaugural golf scramble.



Retired football coach Mike Simpson and Ron Larson '72

### Morris at the Gophers

In November alumni and friends joined the Honorable Thomas J. Anderson, University of Minnesota Board of Regents; Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson; Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Jason Herbers; and Head Football Coach Robert Cushman for a pre-game event.



Emily Redman, Sam Redman '05, and Matt Ottinger '05

### Morris on the Move to Boston

In December alumni enjoyed dinner with the Chancellor at the Boston Harbor Hotel.



Nora Sandstad '01, Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson, and Nate LaCoursiere '02

### Morris on the Move—Duluth

In August alumni and friends visited with the Chancellor at the Kitchi Gammi Club.



Curt Teberg '70, Cassie McMahon '07, and Geoff Sheagley '06



Wayne Lauer '80, Scott Devries '13, Alissa Hawks '12, Katie Johnson '96, and David Loewi, former director of Computing Services

### Morris on the Move to Denver

In January alumni and friends enjoyed dinner at the Brown Palace Hotel.



Dave Karstens '76, Nancy Karstens, Karen Fox Pancoast '70, and Howard Pancoast





Tony Olson '93 and Jodi Herfurth '91



Paajnyag Yang '13 and PaHoua Vang '12

### Morris on the Move to Phoenix

In February alumni and friends got together for lunch at the Phoenix City Grille.

### Midwinter Gathering

In February alumni and friends imbibed at Day Block Brewing Company in Minneapolis.



Darlene Peterson-Hauschild, Douglas Libby '65, and Janice Goligowski Libby '65



Shannon Steinbring '99, Steve Fricke '98, Bridget Jacques-Fricke '98, Brian Jacobs, Doug Hanson '99, and Nicole Neu Hanson '99

## Alumni and Students

### Ice Cream Social

In August Morris students beat the heat with ice cream floats, courtesy of the UMMAA.

### Alumni and Students Pizza Ranch Night

In November alumni met and networked with current students in downtown Morris.

### Senior Banquet

In December members of the Class of 2016 attended a special dinner in their honor, sponsored by the UMMAA.



### Class of '64

**Leonard E. Munstermann** recently was named one of the 100 most influential faculty members since the founding of Public Health at Yale. Munstermann was honored at an alumni banquet celebrating the Centennial for the Yale School of Public Health late last year. Currently Munstermann is senior research scientist in microbial diseases and head curator of entomology at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.

**Roger Tollefson**, Starbuck, passed away in November 2015. He was employed at WASP, Inc. in Glenwood at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, JoAnn Boorman; two daughters; two stepchildren; and three step-grandchildren.

### Class of '66

**Orin Paul Trelstad**, Madison, passed away in December 2015. He taught vocal music in Granite Falls, Madison, Marietta, and Stewart and served as superintendent of Lyle Public Schools before retiring in 2000. Paul was a founding member of the ChordAyres male chorus, which was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in 2012. He is survived by his wife, Eileen; three children; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

**James "Jim" Lysen**, Glenwood, passed away in December 2015. He resided on the family farm in Reno Township, Pope County.

### Class of '67

**Karl Retzlaff**; his wife, Linda; and their family have been named Stevens County 2015 Farm Family of the Year by the University of Minnesota. The farm first was homesteaded by Peter Bjork in the 1800s. Through the years it passed from Karl's great-grandfather Syver Larson to Karl's parents and finally to Karl in 1978. It grew in acreage over the years, and today it encompasses 830 acres in Stevens County and 380 acres in Brown County, which Karl and Linda's son, **Dustin '05**, farms. Karl and Linda also have been involved with Scandia Woods Environmental Learning Lab (SWELL) for the past 24 years. They lease 20 acres of their property to the school district for the purpose of historical and environmental learning. The land includes trails, woods, a pond, a restored wetland, and a classroom where Ranger **Randee Hokanson '73** teaches lessons for school students.

**Cynthia Babb Janssen** passed away in October 2015.

**Leroy Pletten**, Sterling Heights, Michigan, passed away in April 2015. In 1969 he was recruited by the Department of Defense United States Army division to be the personnel management specialist, United States tank automotive command. Following his retirement from the army he worked as a senior tax advisor and office manager. He is survived by his four siblings, including sister **Gloria Warner '09**.

### Class of '68

**Raymond P. Bjornson**, Madison, passed away in August 2015. He was employed at Hormel in Austin for 32 years and received the Minnesota Pork Producers Association Distinguished Service Award in 2005. He was preceded in death by his wife, Susan. He is survived by two children and a grandson.

**Jon T. Kwako** passed away in September 2015. Following graduation he served in the United States Army in Vietnam, where he earned a Purple Heart. He attended the University of New Mexico School of Law, practiced law, and served as a state senator for two years in New Mexico. He lived in Belize for a time before returning to New Mexico. He is survived by his daughter, granddaughter, and sister Kara. He was preceded in death by sisters **Mary Jo '69** and Fredra.

### Class of '69

**Dean Cary** and wife Brenda, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, are celebrating the arrival of their first grandchild, Anthony, to their daughter Michelle (Mike) Fioretti. Dean says his new grandson may be the impetus to finally retire.

**Royce Fuller**, Blaine, passed away suddenly in June 2015 while playing golf, one of his favorite activities. Royce retired from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in 2010. He is survived by his wife, **Carol Winge Fuller '69**; one daughter; one son; and three grandchildren.

**Edith Lang**, Minneapolis, passed away in March 2015. She had retired from a 27-year teaching career and was active in numerous volunteer activities until her passing. Among her survivors are her son **Stephen '89**, granddaughter **Alexis Vogel '06** (both of Alpine, Texas); niece **Carol Westberg '68**; and Alexis' mother, **Marlene Jacobson '78**.

**Doug Maciver** has been inducted into the 2015 Minnewaska Laker Athletic Hall of Fame. At Morris he earned four varsity letters each in basketball and baseball and was captain of the 1968–69 basketball squad. After graduation Doug worked at Denfield High School in Duluth as a coach and physical education instructor until he retired in 2005. Currently he is the executive secretary/treasurer for Administrative Region 7AA of the Minnesota State High School League.

### Class of '70

**James "Jim" Eggers**, Wheaton, passed away in June 2015. Following graduation he earned a master's of business administration from Golden Gate University. Jim served in Vietnam with the Air Force, achieving the rank of captain. His primary occupation was as a realtor. He is survived by his wife, De Nece; two daughters; and three grandchildren.

**Alan Schendel**, Prairie City, Iowa, passed away in October 2015. From 1972 until 1977 he served in the Army National Guard. Later he worked for the Sacred Heart Minnesota Community school district, Prairie City Community Schools, and the PCM School District as a teacher, coach, and athletic director. He is survived by his wife, **Mary Silbernack Schendel '72**; three children; and seven grandchildren.

### Class of '71

**Ruth Gremmels**, Glenwood, passed away in July 2015. She taught at Norgaard Elementary School in Glenwood until her retirement. She is survived by her three sons, including **Paul '05**; six grandchildren, including **Steven '09**, **Sean '08**, **Jamie '05**, and **Angela Erickson '00**; five great-grandchildren; and



other family and friends, including many appreciative students whom she helped along the way. She is preceded in death by her husband, James Gremmels, retired English faculty.

### Class of '73

**Ronald Lee Raasch** passed away in August 2015. After graduation he began his work at the YMCA, retiring after a 38-year career. He is survived by his wife, Kathy; three children; and six grandchildren.

### Class of '74

**Linda McBrown Deglmann**, Princeton, passed away in August 2015. She is survived by husband Steve, two children, and one grandchild.

### Class of '75

**Stephen Peterson** writes: "I'm still living in Bloomington, Illinois. I recently retired from State Farm Insurance in Bloomington after 26 years and just celebrated the birth of my first grandchild. I've been married for 37 years with four grown children. I still remember my Morris years with great fondness."

**Dr. John Zenk**, Eden Prairie, passed away in June 2015. He practiced medicine in Hutchinson, Shakopee, and Minneapolis and worked for Humanetics Corporation as chief medical and scientific officer.



Beta Sigma Phi enjoyed its annual golf outing in early August 2015. Pictured left to right: Mark Kraft '79, Dave Peterson '75, Tom Larson '80, Bill Neuenfeldt '80, Everett Lien '73, Randy Nelson '79, Steven Hieskary '75, John Habedank '79, Rick Reed '80, Lloyd Nelson '80, Nile Fellows '75, Todd Lundquist '77, Jim Koestler '81

### Class of '79

**Harold Holt** spent one week studying the Civil War in Ashland, Ohio, as part of the Ashbrook's Buchwald Summer Fellowship. He also spent three weeks studying "Reconstruction: the Untold Story" at the University of South Carolina Beaufort as part of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

## Like Father, Like Daughter: Jeff '87 and Katie '17 Ledermann

Environmental sustainability runs deep in this legacy family.

Jeff Ledermann '87 and his daughter Katie '17 have a lot in common: an appreciation for the outdoors, a propensity for leadership, and love for both environmental sustainability and the University of Minnesota, Morris. In their careers at Morris and beyond, both Ledermanns have proven themselves forerunners in their field.

An avid outdoorsman, Jeff works for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as the supervisor of angling recruitment, retention and education. After graduating from Morris with a degree in biology and secondary education, he taught science and later was hired by the State of Minnesota, where he since has enjoyed a fulfilling career in environmental education. Jeff has been a major proponent of environmental education advocacy in Minnesota and has had a profound impact on public education on environmental issues, including creating the Eco Experience at the Minnesota State Fair. As a result, he has thrice been awarded Minnesota "Environmental Oscars" from Environmental Initiative and recently was named Non-Formal Environmental Educator of the Year by the Minnesota Association for Environmental Education.

Now Katie '17 is following in her father's footsteps. Since entering Morris as a freshman in 2013, she has been deeply involved in the activities of the Office of Sustainability. An environmental studies and business management double major, she also champions sustainability as vice president of the Morris Campus Student Association. Her success at Morris and the opportunities she's been offered have made her father awfully proud.

"She has worked hard, and we are very proud of her," Jeff writes. "UMM has provided her with an amazing amount of opportunities in the field of sustainability that she never would've gotten at another school."

Katie adds, "My dad has been a great role model for me growing up and continues to be an important influence in helping and supporting me through big life decisions."



### Class of '82

**Andrew Johnson** passed away in October 2015. Andrew served as director of sports information at Macalester College from 1988 until 2014. He is survived by his father, Chancellor Emeritus David C. Johnson, and two siblings. He was preceded in death by his mother, Jean.

### Class of '83

**Jane Johnson** presented at the 13th annual Field Day on July 23, 2015, at the USDA ARS Soils Lab in Morris.



### Class of '85

**Lynn Marie Sax**, Minneapolis, passed away in October 2015. She worked for the University of Minnesota as an associate program director in the Office of Measurement Services and had spent many years as an early childhood educator at Neighborhood Children's House in Minneapolis. She is survived by her husband, Ed Philpot, and three children.

### Class of '89

**Mia Johnson Erickson**, Osakis, passed away in September 2015. Following graduation she lived in Washington and Montana, returning to her hometown of Osakis in March 2015 to be with friends and family while she battled cancer. She is survived by her mother and siblings.

### Class of '91

**Aaron Rocha**, Gary, Indiana, passed away in September 2015. While at Morris he was active in soccer club and the Latino student organization, and he cohosted a Spanish program on KUMM. Aaron was an artist, and some of his works are still displayed on campus. He is survived by his wife, Eva '91, and daughter.

### Class of '92

**Russell "Rusty" Baker**, Osakis, passed away in October 2015. He was employed as an over-the-road truck driver for many years. He is survived by his parents, fiancée, and siblings.

**Ben De Long** passed away in October 2015. In 1990 he retired from farming to attend Morris. Later he earned a master's degree in psychology and worked in family therapy.

### Class of '93

**Rodger Coppa** began his duties as the new Plymouth fire chief in November 2015. He previously had served as assistant fire chief for the Saint Louis Park Fire Department and as a firefighter in Brooklyn Park.



### Class of '94

**Jackie Riss Brown** married Carl Brown in Raymond, Mississippi, on December 27, 2014. She is continuing her work as a college professor and educational consultant, which she began when she completed her PhD in 2008.

**Heather PennieRoy** was inducted into the 2015 Minnewaska Area Schools Athletic Hall of Fame. Her athletic achievements began in high school when she played volleyball for the Villard High School Mallards. She also excelled in basketball and softball. At Morris she played softball and volleyball. She is an inductee of the Morris Cougar Hall of Fame and the Minnesota State High School Softball Hall of Fame.

### Class of '96

**Dr. Eric Crabtree** passed away in November 2015. He graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Medicine; completed his internship at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, Washington; and finished his residency in anesthesiology at the University of Iowa. Prior to beginning medical school, Eric entered the United States Air Force. He served at Eglin Air Force Base in Iraq and was honorably discharged in 2009. He lived with his family in Brainerd and worked for Essentia Health and Sheridan Health Care. He is survived by his wife and two children.

**Laurie Kurth**, Ortonville, passed away in February 2013. She worked as a dietitian at the Golden Living Center in Milbank and at the Appleton Prison. She greatly enjoyed singing and crafts, and she crocheted many scarves and hats for the Angel Tree Project.

**Krista Kay Leraas**, Barrett, passed away peacefully in April 2015. She earned a master's degree in culture, ecology, and sustainable economy from the New College of California. She served as a board member for Gardening Matters, was the sole proprietor of Chickadee Consulting, was managing director for the Alliance of Sustainability, and was a scholarship counselor for Minnesota Child Care Resource and Referral Network. She is survived by her mother and siblings.

### Class of '97

**Chad Dolly** writes: "I joined Ernst & Young LLP in Minneapolis as a manager in Business Valuation in October 2014. I currently live in Bloomington and enjoyed visiting UMM for Homecoming 2015."

**Monica Ningen Tuttle** has been named one of Business Insurance's 2015 Women to Watch. Monica is managing director and chief property underwriter for the United States and Canada Swiss Re Americas, a unit of Swiss Re Ltd., Armonk, New York.

**Brenda Lauziere**, Oak Park Heights, passed away in August 2015.

### Class of '98

**Ravi Norman** received a 2015 Diversity in Business Award, presented by Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal. The Diversity in Business awards recognize some of the Twin Cities' leading business leaders (owners and executives) from the GLBT and ethnic-minority communities. Norman is the CEO of Thor Construction, a general contractor that is based in Fridley and is one of the largest blackowned businesses in the country.





Left: Janelle Alvstad Mattson, Neil Mattson, Nathan Rooney '01, and Andrea Richardson Rooney held their second annual minireunion in Ithaca, New York, on October 2, 2015. The Mattson and Rooney families gathered to share food, memories, and games with the kids (each couple has a daughter and a son.) The Mattsons now live in Ithaca, where Neil is an associate professor of horticulture at Cornell University. The Rooneys are living there while Nathan earns a MBA.

**Michelle Peterson**, Madison, passed away in June 2015. She earned a physician assistant degree from the University of South Dakota Medical School in Vermillion. She worked in Wheaton for 10 years, then transferred to a clinic in Sisseton, South Dakota, until retiring in 2014. She is survived by two daughters.

### Class of '99

**Heidi Hoechst** is the author of *Life in and Against the Odds: Debts of Freedom and the Speculative Roots of U.S. Culture*. The book describes the different phases of speculative nationalism in United States history and how they affect the current culture and economy, especially in relation to race and capitalism. Heidi is a visiting professor at Tulane University, where she teaches courses in women, gender, and sexuality studies.

### Class of '00

**Chad Braegelmann**, Sartell, was appointed head volleyball coach for the Saint Cloud State University Huskies.

**Sara Heutinck** writes: "Greetings from Scotland, everyone! After taking a break from ministry, I'm back in school fulltime studying scripture and theology at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland for at least a year as I work toward my second master's degree and consider PhD studies down the road. If you happen to be crossing the pond next year, I'd love to connect!"

**Aimie Mims** was elected secretary of the International Right of Way Association's International Executive Committee. Her one year term began in June 2015. Mims has been an active member since 2010.

### Class of '03

**Jolaine Jennissen Liupakka** and her husband Dan welcomed their third child, Raymond, in November 2014.

**Mike Vandenberg** was awarded the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers Best Practice for Prevention award for preventing a potentially dangerous situation on the train tracks in Morris. He noticed dump trucks on the tracks as construction was taking place, and while there was somebody standing on the lookout for oncoming trains, Vandenberg had been out earlier and knew a train was approaching. He called the BNSF Railway Police to alert a dispatcher about the situation, and the approaching train reduced its speed. It passed through Morris slowly enough that construction workers were able to clear the way.

**Joel Fugleberg** received a Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce Business of Excellence Award.

**Wayne Lamont**, Grand Rapids, passed away in April 2014. He was employed by Blandin UPM-Kymmene. He is survived by his wife, Alona, and two sons.

### Class of '04

**John Scholla Jr.** and **Erin Scherbring Scholla** welcomed their third daughter, Kailin Reese Scholla, on July 1, 2015. Kailin joins proud big sisters Madison and Brynnly.

### Class of '05

**Sam Redman** will have his first book, *Bone Rooms: From Scientific Racism to Human Prehistory in Museums*, published by Harvard University Press in 2016. The book explores the social implications of how human remains have been utilized in scientific discovery, particularly in the development of anthropology and racial theory.

**Craig Vogl** and **Heather Schiro Vogl '04** are happy to announce the birth of their first child. Greta Mae joined the Morris family in June 2015.

### Class of '06

**Lindsey Dickinson Sand**, Clearwater, was appointed administrator of Assumption Community in Cold Spring. This position allows her to follow her passion for serving aging adults. She and her husband, Brian, have been blessed with two beautiful little girls, Lucy and Lily.

**Nicholas Schuett** has taken over the Milaca Family Dental practice, where he has been working since graduating from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 2012.

### Class of '07

**Joey** and **Christina Newman Iverson '09** were married in August 2015 at Pomme de Terre Park in Morris. Their wedding celebration featured music from Morris alumni, a citywide scavenger hunt, and a reception at the American Legion. Joey and Christina were excited to reconnect with their many Morris friends in the town where they first met and to introduce Morris to their families and other friends. This spring they will move to Dayton, Ohio, where Joey will continue his research in mathematics at the Air Force Institute of Technology.



KT Schwaderer Kennedy '06, Lisa Jordan '07, Ben Buer '07, and Professor of Chemistry Nancy Carpenter enjoy a Morris minireunion in Boston.

**Andy Spofford** was named North Branch Area Public Schools Teacher of the Year. He has been a social studies teacher at North Branch Area High School for eight years.

### Class of '08

**Meghan Bero Doblar** and her husband, Brian, welcomed their first baby boy, Grady James, on April 3, 2015.

### Class of '09

**Rae Fredrich** completed a master of arts in mathematics education in July 2015. She continues teaching upper-level math and STEM at Saint Croix Lutheran in West Saint Paul.

### Class of '11

**Michael McBride** writes: "In May I graduated from law school at the Twin Cities campus. On October 4 I married my beautiful wife, Meredith Rieth McBride. And this fall I was also commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps."



Left: Thomas Kowalski and Jenna Greenwell Kowalski '09 were married in March 2014. In 2015 they enjoyed a return visit to Morris, where they first met.

**Matt Privratsky** proposed a winning project for Saint Paul's Knight Green Line Challenge. The resulting Knight Foundation grant was used to install wayfinding signs along the lightrail line through the city.

### Class of '12

**Peter Hurd** directed, produced, and cowrote the horror film *The Control Group*, which was released in October 2014. It is the first film he directed, and it was shot in Fergus Falls. In the film five college students find themselves trapped in an abandoned mental health facility with rogue scientists when a supernatural threat appears.

### Class of '13

**Kaitlyn Slieter McBrady** has been active at the University of Saint Thomas since August 2014, when she was the graduate assistant at the Wellness Center and graduate intern at Disability Services. She is a graduate student representative on the Luann Dummer Center for Women Advisory Board.



### Mini Morrisites

Nate '10 and Megan Mahoney Copeland '10, Morris; Kevin '09 and Jessica Ojala Pope '08, Morris; Nathan '11 and Britta Anderson Haseman '14, Morris; Reggie and Megan Hill Welle '11, Morris; and Brady '09 and Brittany Kill Rose '08, Alberta, present future Cougars Flynn Copeland, Landon and Madalyn Pope, Henry and Elsie Haseman, Liam Welle, and Kyson and Blakely Rose.





Philip Rudney '09 and Kelly Herzberg Rudney '10 were married in August 2014. The celebration was attended by many friends and Morris alumni.

### Class of '14

Admissions Counselor **Andrew Sletten** is the cofounder of The Platform, a new off-campus venue for arts and music in Morris. This nonprofit organization hosts all types of artistic events to support the rural art scene and strengthen the community. More information is available at [facebook.com/theplatformart](https://facebook.com/theplatformart).

### Class of '15

**Abigale Bodene** was crowned Miss Central Lakes 2015 in the Miss Brainerd Lakes Scholarship Program. She is working on a doctor of pharmacy at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy.



Butler

Rose Schwietz '13 and Lecturer of Sociology **Christopher Butler** were in Nepal when the devastating April 2015 earthquakes hit. Schwietz was teaching English and theatre at an International Baccalaureate high school, and Butler was conducting research for his dissertation. They stayed several weeks after the quake to collect water purification materials from fleeing tourists and distribute them to Nepalis in need. **Astha Bhandari '16** helped with the relief efforts by reconstructing shelters and training volunteers on hygiene practices and sexual assault prevention.



Schwietz

### Faculty/Staff

**Russell DuBois** passed away in November 2015 at his home in Saratoga Springs, New York. In 1967 he became head librarian at Briggs. He worked to integrate digital technology by expanding electronic card cataloging and online research. He retired in 1992 and moved to Tucson, Arizona, where he worked with the University of Arizona's Sage program. He is survived by his son.

**Liselotte "Lisa" Gumpel**, professor emeritus of German, passed away in October 2015. Born in Berlin, Germany, Gumpel was sent to England as a child refugee in 1939 with her two sisters. In 1954 she immigrated to the United States, where she pursued a distinguished academic career. She was professor of German at Morris until her retirement in 1997. She published two books and many academic papers and lectured around the world. She also established a scholarship for the study of languages. She is survived by one sister in New York and wider family in England.

**Raymond "Pete" Harold Lembcke (WCSA '46)**, Morris, passed away in June 2015. He began working at Morris in 1969 and retired in 1993. He is survived by his wife, seven children, 16 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

**Clarice Wente**, Glenwood City, Wisconsin, passed away in May 2014. She worked at Food Service for 22 years. After her retirement she moved back to Wisconsin to be closer to family. Survivors include her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**Send us your Class Notes.  
Please include high resolution photos!**

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[alumni@morris.umn.edu](mailto:alumni@morris.umn.edu) or  
[alumni.morris.umn.edu/submit-class-note](http://alumni.morris.umn.edu/submit-class-note)

**Next Class Notes Deadline: May 20, 2016**





## FOOTBALL

Under first-year head coach Rob Cushman, the Cougars won four games in 2015, tying the win total from the previous two years combined. The team finished with the most rushing yards in a single season since 2011.

Colin Everson '17, Grand Marais, and Jacob Wirz '16, Saint Cloud, were named All-UMAC after great seasons. Wirz finished with 120 tackles: the most in the UMAC and eighth in the nation. Everson led the team with seven sacks and 13 tackles-for-loss. Jeremy Sloneker '17, Zimmerman, set a school record with five fumble recoveries in a single season.



## VOLLEYBALL

For the third straight year the Cougars reached the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) Championships after finishing second in the regular season. It was a great finish for a team that had to deal with a coaching change weeks before the start of the season; Tricia Melfy took over as head coach in August.

Morris won 20 matches for the fourth straight year in 2015. It also had a win over a ranked team for the second straight season, beating #20 St. Thomas.

Four Cougars were named to the UMAC All-Conference Team. Brooke Decker '16, Maple Lake; Katie Reitsma '18, Sauk Centre; Marissa Ekness '18, Webster; and Abby Tietz '16, Moorhead, were all named to the First Team.



photo by Brooke Kern

## CROSS COUNTRY

### women's

After taking home the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) Championship in 2014, the women's cross country team took second place this fall. Three runners finished in the top 10 at the 2015 UMAC Championships. Laura Borkenhagen '16, Truman; Rachel Wingenbach '16, Mandan, North Dakota; and Nicole Deziel '16, Eagan, earned UMAC All-Conference honors after their top-10 finishes. The women also had a great performance at the St. Bonifacius Invite, taking third.

### men's

The men's cross country team finished fifth at the 2015 UMAC Championships this fall. Chalmer Combellick '17, Chokio, came back after a year off and finished second in the meet. For his efforts Combellick was named to the UMAC All-Conference Team. The men's team also finished fifth at the Runner of the Cows Invite in Northfield.





## SOCCER

### women's

The women's team finished third in the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) Regular season and was knocked out by St. Scholastica in the UMAC Tournament Semifinals. The Cougars did have five players earn All-UMAC Honors for their efforts during the season.

Yu Ito '19, Tokyo, Japan; Molly Hancuh '18, Shoreview; and Juliet Batista '18, Ramsey, were named to the UMAC First Team. Torri Jordan '17, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, and Ivie Brooks '16, Duluth, were named UMAC Honorable Mentions. Hancuh had three hat-tricks and tied a school record with four goals in a single match. Her 16 goals tied for third-most in a single season in program history. Ito also had a match with four goals to tie a school record.

The women also earned the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Gold Award after finishing the 2015 season with just one yellow card.

### men's

The men failed to reach the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) Championship—for the first time since 2006—after a third-place finish in 2015. The Cougars did have six players named to the UMAC All-Conference Team, including four First Team performers.

Joshua Bartels '18, Glenwood; Luqman Barre '18, Minneapolis; Cody Christ '18, Elk River; and Shingo Yamane '16, Clara City, were named to the First Team. Jacob Gindt '16, Woodbury, and Alex Keller '19, Saint Cloud, were named Honorable Mentions. Gindt also was named a College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District player.



photo by Brooke Kern

## GOLF

### men's

The men's golf team finished sixth at the 2015 Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) Championships in Alexandria this fall. Tyler Sachariason '16, Montevideo, was the best Cougar finisher, placing 17th at the event. Kyle Och '19, Sartell, placed 18th, just two strokes behind Sachariason.

The team's best finish during the 2015 season was second place at the Cougar Invite. Sachariason won the event in a one-hole playoff.

### women's

Led by Katelyn Foster '18, Osakis, who came in ninth at the event, the women's golf team placed third at the UMAC Championships. Kelsey Wattenhofer '18, Litchfield, and Meghan Foley '19, Bovey, finished just outside the top 10. Wattenhofer was voted to the All-Conference Team.

The Cougars won two events during the season, taking first at the Cougar Invite and the Mid Country Bank Classic.



## Welcome, New Coaches!



Rob Cushman, football  
 Jess Devine, track and field  
 Tony Krueger, cross country  
 Tricia Melfy, volleyball  
 Nick Perrin, women's tennis  
 Htut Zar, men's tennis





## STEWARDSHIP OF THE LAND

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You take pride in your contributions to our Minnesota way of life. Pass down that pride to future generations through a gift of land or other property to the University of Minnesota, Morris. Through a charitable remainder trust or life estate gift, you may receive tax benefits now while you continue to manage and benefit from your assets. When UMM receives your gift in the future, UMM grows stronger and benefits the area economy through your support. Talk with us about how *Stewardship of the Land* may work for you.



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Follow us!



In February alumni and friends got together at Day Block Brewing Company for the annual Midwinter gathering. For more photos of alumni events, turn to page 23.